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FLOOR DEBATE

January 23, 2003 LB 67, 115

opening on the committee amendments to LB 67. Open for discussion on those amendments. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I had turned my light on because I want to do things decently and in order, but I'm going to speak on a point of personal privilege. According to Rule 2, Section 11: "Personal privilege shall be, first, those affecting the rights, dignity, and integrity of the Legislature collectively." The World-Herald wrote an editorial this morning, which was absolutely false and totally misleading, relating to the way the Executive Board referred to itself, for a public hearing, a bill designed to give the Auditor of Public Accounts the authority to conduct performance audits. It is clear, and the rules make it plain, that the Executive Board will handle bills by way of the hearing process that relate to the Legislature, what we do and, in general, those things that pertain to the operation of the Legislature. Since a bill is going to be considered that gives performance auditing as a function to the Legislature, any legislation that relates to that should be heard by the same committee. So, although a bill that was designed to give that function to the Auditor would ordinarily go to the Government Committee, the fact that the Legislature is considering that as a role for itself to play, anything that impacts on it impacts on a function of the Legislature. The World-Herald's editorial gave the impression that we...I'm a member of the Exec Board. I was emphatic in saying that that bill, LB 115, should come to the Executive Board for a public hearing, and I still believe that is the correct decision, although the board reversed itself. The impression was given that the bill would have been referred to the Legislature's Executive Board and there would be no hearing, there would be backroom deals and it would not be available to public scrutiny. What these editorial writers need to know, and Senator Maxwell could serve a function for this Legislature by talking to his former colleagues, that they ought to get their facts straight before they write these editorials. And maybe everybody else on the floor will sit quiet while this kind of misinformation is given to the public, but I'm the oldest member of the Legislature. When you've been in a place longer than anybody else, they hang the term "dean" on you, for what reason I don't know, but that's what I am. I'm also a